



Rockville Reports

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Rockville Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr to Step Down

Julie Palakovich Carr, serving in her second term as a Rockville councilmember, has announced she will resign her office, effective Jan. 8. Palakovich Carr was elected Nov. 6 to represent District 17 in the Maryland House of Delegates, which includes Rockville. She will be sworn in Jan. 9.

"It has been a great honor to represent the people of Rockville on the City Council," Palakovich Carr said. "I will take everything I've learned in City Hall to Annapolis to represent the people of District 17."

Palakovich Carr was first elected to the City Council in 2013 and re-elected to a four-year term in 2015. She was the youngest woman ever elected to the body. Before being elected to the Rockville council, she served on the city's Environment Commission and chaired the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Review



Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr.

Committee.

Palakovich Carr's vacated City Council seat will be filled by a special appointment process to be conducted by the remaining members of the Mayor and Council. (See article on page 3.)

The Mayor and Council will hold public hearings on Dec. 10 on the charter amendments.

For more information about the proposed changes, go to www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the Nov. 19 agenda materials. ❖

2018: Taking a Look Back on a Busy Year

2018 has been a busy year for the City of Rockville. The city was recognized as the best place to live in Maryland by "Money" magazine (and if you live here, you already know that, right?), hired a new police chief and planning director, sadly lost a former mayor, and adopted voting by mail for the 2019 Mayor and Council elections.

And that's not all. Here are some of the key events in a retrospective on 2018:

JANUARY: A zoning text amendment was approved at the Jan. 22 Mayor and Council meeting to implement land-use policies of the **Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan**. The approval cleared the way for the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan to become a reality.



Speed cameras? They're working. Maryland Avenue drivers were slowing down, approaching Town Center, as shown by a decrease in the number of citations issued along the street.



FEBRUARY: Rockville was named the best place to live in Maryland in a rating from "Money" magazine. "Money" cited Rockville's "low unemployment and an ultralow crime rate," as well as its high-ranking schools, shopping and amenities.

Tireless advocate and com-

munity leader **Fran Hawkins** was honored by Rockville's Mayor and Council with a certificate of recognition for her decades of service to the Lincoln Park community.

MARCH: "Streamlining the Permitting Process" was the topic for a stakeholders' forum, held by Rockville's Inspection Services Division, at City Hall.

To see an update on that process, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and click on the Oct. 29 Mayor and Council work session link.

APRIL: Rockville residents will be able to **vote by mail**, beginning with the 2019 Mayor and Council elections, under a process approved unanimously by the Mayor and Council. Voting by mail provides more and better options for voters by sending the ballots to voters, as opposed to getting voters to the polls.

A new online map, **Rockville Arts in Public Places**, was launched, showing the locations of 50 public artworks around the city, alongside details that include the artist's name and a description of the piece. (Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AIPP to see the map and learn more about Rockville's public art.)



MAY: The 30th annual Memorial Day weekend **Hometown Holidays Music Fest** was a destination for thousands of music lovers and featured performances on four stages across six city blocks.

The Mayor and Council sent a letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation expressing opposition to

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Rockville Facilities to Close for the Holidays

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day and Tuesday, Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

On these weeks, recycling and trash will be collected as usual Monday and one day later than usual throughout the remainder of the week. Find more information at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash.

City Hall will also be closed 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, for an annual recognition event for city employees. Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule this month:

- Beginning the week of Dec. 17, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be open only from 2-7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The box office will resume regular hours Tuesday, Jan. 15. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
- Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24, 26 and 31; open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 2; and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- Croydon Creek Nature

continued on pg. 8...



Mayor and Council Consider Town Center Initiatives

The Mayor and Council continued their discussion of ways to improve and strengthen the vitality of Rockville Town Center at a special meeting held in November at City Hall.

The special meeting's agenda included parking, stakeholder partnerships, and proactive measures the city can take to ensure a vibrant and successful downtown core.

Among potential actions supported by the Mayor and Council were creating a city liaison to implement initiatives and support local businesses and property owners, and funding a retail study through Rockville Economic Development, Inc., to identify policy issues the city can address. After the new year, the Mayor and Council will consider examining development regulations that govern the downtown.

More than 400 people attended an Oct. 9 town hall to express ideas and ask questions. The Mayor and Council, and Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT), owner of Town Square's commercial spaces, developed a set of responses to the questions raised at the town hall (available online at mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/rockville-town-center-follow-up).

Find the staff report on the discussion attached to the Nov. 13 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

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MAYOR & COUNCIL
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Rockville, Maryland
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Green Giving and Electronics Recycling

Do you plan on giving new electronics as a gift for the holidays? For products that help reduce environmental impacts and energy costs, look for Energy Star-qualified and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool-registered items. Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights. To make a bulk waste or electronics recycling collection appointment, call 240-314-8568. For more information on recycling and trash service or holiday tree collection, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash or see the article on page 8.

City Joins County in Requirements for Carbon Monoxide Detectors

An ordinance, adopted by the Mayor and Council in November, will require carbon monoxide detectors in Rockville homes built prior to 2008 that have a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage. The city ordinance incorporates legislation passed by the county in October, which will go into effect July 1, to allow residents time to understand and comply with the new requirement. Since 2008, all new single-family dwellings and townhouses in the State of Maryland have been required to install carbon monoxide detectors. Exposure to carbon monoxide, which is colorless and odorless, can cause serious injury or death. Specifically, the county bill requires owners of single-unit, two-unit and townhouse dwelling units, with fuel-burning appliances or attached garages that were permitted before Jan. 1, 2008, to install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms.

Polystyrene Ban to Take Effect Jan. 1

Ban Prohibits Use in Food Service and Shipping A ban on the use of polystyrene in food plates, trays, containers or in loose fill for shipping packages in the City of Rockville takes effect Jan. 1. The ban potentially affects about 400 restaurants and food service establishments, as well as several shipping businesses in the city. The Mayor and Council voted unanimously for the ban on Dec. 11, 2017. It is an extension of a ban that took effect in Montgomery County in 2016. The Mayor and Council on Nov. 19 voted to delay a portion of the ban, on plastic straws. The ban on plastic straws will take effect July 1, giving businesses additional time to prepare. Polystyrene is a petroleum-derived, thermos plastic material that can be molded into various shapes and forms. It is often mistakenly called “Styrofoam,” which is a name, trademarked by the Dow Chemical Company, for certain types of building materials and pipe insulation. Polystyrene has historically been used for plates, clamshell containers, hot and cold beverage cups, meat and vegetable trays, and egg cartons. Its manufacturing process generates the fifth-largest amount of hazardous wastes in the United States.

Although polystyrene breaks down into small pellets, it never fully degrades. Because it is lightweight, it can be easily carried on the wind or long distances floating in rivers and streams. It is the second-most common type of beach litter, making up as much as one-fifth of the storm-water debris recovered from waterways through stream clean ups. The City of Rockville collects used polystyrene as part of its weekly refuse collection and takes it, along with other household refuse, for disposal in the county’s waste-to-energy incinerator. For a staff report and the Mayor and Council’s discussion of the proposal, find video of the Dec. 11, 2017 meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. For more information, call Mark Charles, the city’s chief of environmental management, at 240-314-8871.



Green Snow Removal Tips

Follow these tips to keep your driveway and side-walks ice-free, while minimizing the environmental impact: **Shovel Early, Shovel Often** Removing fresh snow before it has a chance to harden into ice is the best way to keep your pavement clear. De-icers work best on thin layers of snow or ice that need to be melted, so shovel first, break up any ice patches you can and then add the salt. **Apply Salt Sparingly** Using more than the recommended amount of salt won’t speed up melting. The recommended application rate for rock salt (sodium chloride) is one handful per square yard treated. Calcium chloride requires even less — one handful for every 3 square yards treated (or about the area of a twin bed).

Buy Early and Check Labels Buy your de-icing product before the big storm, so you don’t end up staring at empty shelves in the stores. Check the label before you buy — although slightly more expensive, calcium chloride (CaCl2) requires less salt, works at lower temperatures and does not contain cyanide, unlike sodium chloride (NaCl, rock salt), which does. Urea is sometimes promoted as “lawn-friendly,” as excess urea will act as a fertilizer. However, the application rate for urea is far greater than your lawn would require, and most of the excess urea will only end up “fertilizing” the stream. **Avoid Kitty Litter and Ashes** While these products are environmentally friendly, they are only marginally effective at adding traction, and don’t melt ice. If you need traction, mixing in a small amount of sand and using even less salt is a better option.✚

Winterize to Prevent Frozen Pipes

Freezing temperatures can lead to frozen pipes or meters, leaving homes without running water. To prevent frozen pipes:

- When freezing weather is forecast, turn off inside valves that control the water supply to outside hose attachments (known as bibs). Open the outside hose bibs to allow any water in the line to drain out. Keep the valve open. Remove and drain garden hoses and drain in-ground irrigation systems.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near pipes. Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics.
- Use insulation, pipe sleeves or newspaper to wrap pipes that are exposed to cold air.
- During extended absences, set the thermostat to at least 55 degrees, or shut off the main water valve.
- In severe cold, keep water

moving through pipes. Turn on the faucet farthest from your main valve to a very small, steady trickle. If pipes freeze:

- Shut off the water immediately at the main shutoff valve.
- Warm air around the pipes using a hair dryer. Do not use a kerosene heater, blow torch or open flame.
- Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn water back on. Check all joints for leaks and other areas for cracks that may have resulted from the freeze.

Property owners are responsible for calling a plumber to repair frozen and broken pipes on their property and inside their buildings. If you suspect your meter might be frozen and you pay water bills to the City of Rockville, call 240-314-8567 to schedule a service call. If the Washington Suburban

Sanitary Commission provides water for your property, call 301-206-4002.✚

MORE TIPS

- ✓ Find tips for safely shutting off water and other utilities in your home at www.ready.gov/utility-shut-safety.
- ✓ The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service provides tips for preventing frozen fire sprinkler pipes at <http://ht.ly/H4KSE>.
- ✓ Freezing water can cause rain barrels to crack or deform. When freezing temperatures are forecast, store barrels in a garage or shed, or disconnect the barrel and divert water to the ground using a downspout.
- ✓ Learn more at www.protectyourpipes.org/frozen-pipes and www.rockvillemd.gov/water.

Be In-the-Know When It Snows

Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city’s website at www.rockvillemd.gov. Closure and snow emergency information will be posted on the website, as well as through Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofrockville) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

City crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:


1. Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.
2. Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check whether an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps. Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or occupant unless a community association has assumed the responsibility. Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property as follows:



- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.

- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours. If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330. Seniors may request assistance with clearing snow from their property. Assistance is provided by volunteers and coordinated through the Rockville Senior Center. To volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.✚

NUMBERS TO KNOW WHEN IT SNOWS	
Emergency	911
Rockville City Police Dept. (non-emergency)	240-314-8900
Report a Downed Tree to the City	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works	240-314-8500
Rockville City Hall	240-314-5000
Rockville Recreation Programs Cancellation Line ..	240-314-5023
Report a Power Outage to Pepco.	1-877-737-2662
Montgomery Co. 24-Hour Crisis Center Hotline ...	240-777-4000
(Anyone in Montgomery County who needs assistance to stay warm can visit the county Crisis Center at 1301 Piccard Drive.)	



MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ... Now on Rockville 11’s YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville): Get in the holiday spirit with coverage of the Rockville Town Square tree lighting, watch the Mayor and Council’s full discussion of the future of Rockville Town Center, learn how to help neighbors in need by volunteering to shovel snow for seniors, and meet community members who are proud to be part of the #MyRockville movement.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



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Meetings: Monday, Dec. 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. Work session: Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg on Dec. 17.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.

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City Legislative Priorities: Aid for Schools and Seniors, Protection of Homes, and More

Maryland General Assembly's 90-Day Session Begins Jan. 9

Rockville's 2019 state legislative priorities call for more state aid for school construction and for senior services, opposition to the state taking homes or businesses as part of plans to widen Interstate 270, and funding for a replacement shelter at Isreal Park.

Under priorities approved by the Mayor and Council Oct. 15 and presented to the Montgomery County Delegation on Nov. 14, the city will advocate for:

- **Increased school construction** funding to address overcrowded and aging school facilities in Rockville.
- **Enhanced senior programs and services** to address transportation and recreation needs, and assist with the establishment and awareness of programs to help seniors age in place. Rockville's senior population is projected to grow to 19,140, or 22 percent of the city's population, by 2040.

- **No Rockville homes, businesses or infrastructure to be taken by the state's proposed project to widen Interstate 270.** The Mayor and Council have vigorously advocated in support of Rockville property owners. To learn more, visit rockvillereports.com/state-responds-to-mayor-and-councils-request-to-put-i-270-pledge-in-writing.
- **The State Highway Administration to fulfill its commitment to fund 80 percent of the cost of the West End Park Noise Barrier Project**, which will protect homes north of the I-270/MD 28 interchange.
- **The formation of an independent redistricting commission after each decennial census**, with equal membership from political parties and of voters not affiliated with the two major parties. The commission would recommend to the state legis-

lature a map of congressional districts that are geographically contiguous, encourage compactness and respect the geographic integrity of local governments.

- **A state bond bill for \$200,000 for the design and replacement of the 51-year-old Isreal Park shelter**, which is used for the city's Summer Playgrounds program, rentals and community gatherings. The project includes relocation of the structure, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant bathrooms, a storage area and a covered picnic area.

The 2019 state legislative session runs from Jan. 9-April 8 in Annapolis. For more information, contact Linda Moran at lmoran@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8115. For the full list of priorities, see the article at www.rockvillereports.com. +

Mayor and Council to Discuss Adequate Public Facilities Standards

WHEN: Mayor and Council work session at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17.

WHERE: Mayor and Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

The potential changes would amend the school capacity test near the Rockville and Twinbrook Metro stations, so as to allow new residential development, consis-

tent with the master plan, and support businesses in those areas.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/apfo. +

Mayor and Council to Discuss Budget Priorities

The Mayor and Council will hold their first discussion on the Fiscal Year 2020 budget this month, while continuing to seek community input.

The Mayor and Council will discuss their funding priorities during their meeting on Monday, Dec. 10. Additional information about the discussion will be available when the agenda is posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

The discussion follows a Nov. 19 hearing that gave the public its first opportunity to be heard on the FY 2020 budget. Additional opportunities will include an online survey that allows community members to choose their budget priorities and offer suggestions, including ideas for increasing revenue, reducing or modifying current services, decreasing costs, and improving operational efficiencies.

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Calendar

Dec. 10	Mayor and Council Budget Survey Results and Priorities
Feb. 25	Presentation of FY 2020 Proposed Budget
March-April	Budget Public Hearings and Work Sessions (Dates to be announced)
May 6	Adoption of the FY 2020 Budget

Two additional public hearings and three work sessions will be held during Mayor and Council meetings in March and April, on dates yet to be announced. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2020 budget in May. For more information and a link to the budget survey, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. +

Mayor and Council to Hold Public Hearing on Filling Seat Vacancies

The Mayor and Council will hold second public hearings, Monday, Dec. 10, on amendments to the city code and charter that would clarify the process necessary to fill a mayor or councilmember vacancy.

The changes would specify requirements for a special election, including when that provision would be triggered, and when the Mayor and Council would instead have authority to select someone to fill the vacant seat. The first hearings were held on Nov. 19.

To testify Dec. 10, call 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. the day before the hearings or by submitting testimony in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or City Clerk's Office/Director of Council Operations, City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Rockville Mayor and Council meetings are broadcast live on channel 11 on county cable systems, live streamed at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11 and available a day after the meeting at www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand. +

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- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Learn more below and find other ways to give of your time and talents at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Dec. 4** Asian Pacific American Task Force 7:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 5** Human Rights Commission 7:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27** Development Review Committee 9 a.m.
- **Dec. 6** Environment Commission 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 6** Recreation and Park Advisory Board 7 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- **Dec. 11** Human Services Advisory Commission 6:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 12** Cultural Arts Commission 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 12** Planning Comm. 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 12, 19** Boards and Comm. Task Force 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 13, 28** Board of Supervisors of Elections 9 a.m.
- **Dec. 19** Rockville Sister City Corporation 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 20** Historic District Commission 7 p.m.

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1 alt.)
- Compensation Commission (5)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (3 reg./1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (1)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Rockville Housing Enterprises (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (4)
- Sign Review Board (1)

For more, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions or call 240-314-8280.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
Watch www.youtube.com/cityofrockville



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.

MUNICIPAL BROADCAST NETWORK

COMCAST 997 MBN RCN 1057

Rockville 11 is in HD
The Municipal Broadcast Network is now in HD. Learn more at www.connectmontgomery.com. Watch online at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.

Additional Rush-Hour Metrorail Service to Rockville Stations Begins Dec. 17

End of Turnbacks Will Double Number of Trains to Shady Grove

Metrorail's rush-hour service to Rockville will double beginning Monday, Dec. 17, with the elimination of the so-called turnback at the Grosvenor-Strathmore station.

Metro announced the start date for the additional service this fall, after Metro's Board of Directors approved the end of the turnbacks in July. Under the turnbacks, every other Red Line train during rush hour starts and turns around at Grosvenor-Strathmore, forcing riders at White Flint, Twinbrook, Rockville and Shady Grove to wait eight minutes between trains. With the additional service, riders at those stations will wait just four minutes.

A public outreach survey conducted last spring found that 70 percent of Red Line riders supported the service increase. At a public hearing earlier this year, Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton, on behalf of the Mayor and Council, testified in support of eliminating the turnbacks.

For more information about the coming change, visit www.wmata.com and search "Approval for Additional Red Line Service," to find a link to Action Item IX-A from the July 12 board meeting, or visit www.youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "Eliminating Grosvenor Metro Turnback."

MLK Jr. Day Celebration to Feature Performances, Community Service

Rockville's 47th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, is from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. It will include multicultural performances, awards and a keynote speech by Justin Hansford, the executive director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.

The program's theme of "Enduring Hope, Enduring Progress" will reflect on how to keep hope alive while enduring tough times. The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

The ceremony will be bookended by community service activities as part of the national Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, before the program, from 9:30-11 a.m., and after the program, from 12:30-2 p.m. Attendees will be invited to donate blood, write cards of encouragement to survivors of domestic violence and visit with community organizations at information tables. Volunteers are also needed to serve as companions for a day, accompanying seniors to the program and conversing with them during the event. Seniors will be provided lunch and a bus ride from the Rockville Senior Center to and from the program. Another activity, to be held the same day at 4 p.m. at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave., will involve volunteers preparing emergency kits for homeless families.

To register to take part in the community service activities and to learn more about the celebration, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

Organizers are also seeking volunteers to help with setup and cleanup on the day of the event. Student Service Learning credit is available. For more information, contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov. For information about accessibility, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108.

Peerless Honors Preservation, Stewardship and Advocacy Annual Awards Celebrate Rockville's Heritage

The 39th annual Peerless Rockville awards ceremony, held Nov. 2 at Normandie Farm restaurant in Potomac, recognized efforts to preserve Rockville's historic and architectural character through projects, activities and programs. This year's winners were:

1. Artist Paul Waclo, in the public art category, for his "An Eagle and Two Bears" sculpture in Horizon Hill Park.
2. Lou Harrington, for compatible infill, rehabilitation, and craftsmanship, at 209 Harrison St., by architects Miche Booz and Catherine Stratton Treadway.
3. Montgomery Housing Partnership for stewardship and rehabilitation at Beall's Grant, 254 N.

Washington St.

4. Dianne Fasolina, parks maintenance manager for the City of Rockville, for working with the community to enhance the playground at the Pump House, 401 S. Horners Lane.
5. Eileen McGuckian and Glenn Wallace, for community advocacy, for the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Revisited project.

Peerless Rockville is an award-winning, community-based nonprofit founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects and information important to Rockville's heritage.

Learn more at www.peerlessrockville.org or call 301-762-0096. ❖



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New Grant Program to Empower Communities to Reach Common Goals Applications Available Dec. 14

Rockville is launching a new grant to help neighbors work together to accomplish common goals supporting the health, vitality and inclusivity of the place they call home.

The application period for the Community Empowerment Grants program opens Dec. 14. Applications are due Jan. 14.

Neighborhood, civic or homeowners associations; community groups; and organized groups of neighbors are eligible to apply. Neighbors who are willing to match funding through cash,

in-kind donation and volunteer hours are eligible for these competitive grants.

Applications are reviewed and awarded by the City Manager's Office, and typically range from \$500-\$1,000 each. Funding, which must benefit a clearly identified area within the city limits, may be applied to any of the following objectives:

- **Building community:** projects that promote the development or sustainability of a neighborhood association or community group.
- **Community improve-**



Lunar New Year: Save the Date to Celebrate

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration

The annual celebration will be held from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force.

In its 11th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an educational opportunity

for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark the year 4717, the Year of the Pig on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

Interested in participating by providing a Lunar New Year-themed activity or craft? Contact Amanda Knox at aknox@rockvillemd.gov for more information.

Find additional details, as they become available, at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear. ❖



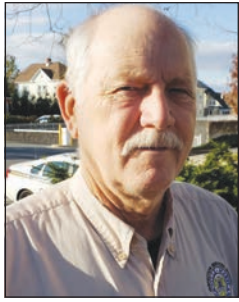
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Connect with us on Social Media.



WHAT WE'RE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH ... The holidays, right? We're definitely celebrating those! But did you know that December is also the month for AIDS awareness, universal human rights and neckties? It's also the month for you to write your business plan, take a moment to consider root vegetables and exotic fruits, and pears.

Meet a Rockville Employee:



Thomas Griffith Code Inspector Marks Impressive Milestone

Fifty thousand of anything would be an achievement. When it comes to building inspections, 50,000 is notable not only because of the amount, but because it contributes to the safety and well-being of Rockville's community.

And when those inspections are the work of just one man — well, that's remarkable.

But 50,000 inspections is the milestone Thomas Griffith just achieved after 17 years with the City of Rockville's Inspection Services Division. The senior codes inspector performed that 50,000th inspection on Oct. 15.

Griffith joined the city in July 2001 and is certified by the International

Code Council in all areas of residential inspections. He is also certified as a commercial building inspector.

The Inspection Services Division (ISD) regulates state-mandated building codes and ordinances by issuing permits and contractor licenses, reviewing plans, and inspecting all phases of residential and commercial construction, to ensure buildings and structures under construction are safe, code-compliant and in conformance with approved plans.

For more information about the ISD, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/inspectionsservices. ❄️

Public Transit Study Will Seek Community Input *Gap Analysis is Part of a Mayor and Council Priority Initiative*

A study of the city's public transit needs will include several opportunities for community members to offer feedback.

The consultant-led Transit Gap Analysis and Needs Assessment Study will assess and analyze potential needs and gaps within Rockville's existing public transit network, and determine unmet demand for new or additional transit services.

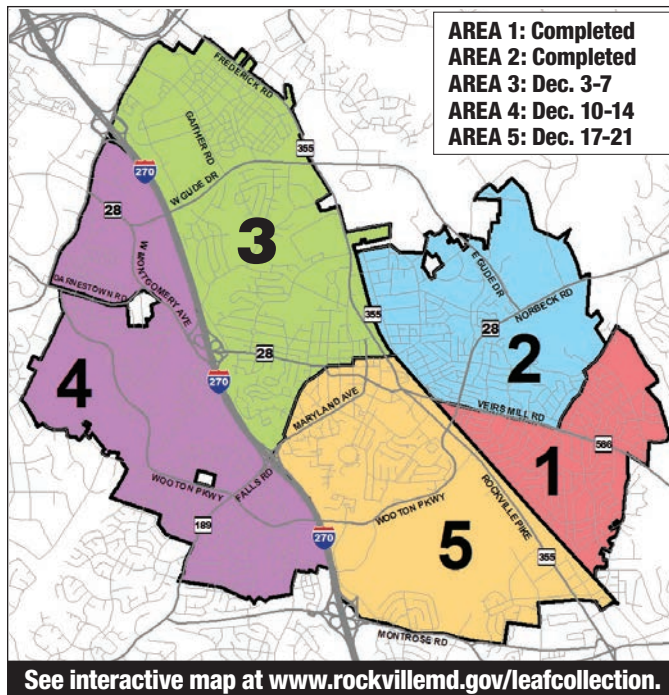
Rockville is known for quality transit-oriented development. The Mayor and Council identified exploring the feasibility of a local transit service as a priority for this term, as part of their focus on planning and preservation.

The city's consultant will

develop and distribute an online survey to collect and quantify feedback from city residents and workers. A January public workshop at City Hall, at a date and time to be determined, will encourage further public engagement in evaluating Rockville's transit needs.

These public engagement components will help the city better understand transportation issues facing the Rockville community.

A link to the online survey and details about the January workshop will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/transit and included in the January edition of "Rockville Reports" when they become available. ❄️



As the Final Leaves Fall, Rake 'em All *Final Round Concludes This Month*

Rockville crews will complete vacuuming leaves from neighborhood curbs for the fall season this month, making the second of two rounds in Area 3, 4 and 5. Collections in Areas 1 and 2 were scheduled to be completed for the season by Nov. 30. (See the map, above, for December collections.)

Rake leaves next to, but out of, roadways, gutters and bike lanes, and away from parked vehicles. Leaves should be raked by 6 a.m. on the first day of the collection period, but no earlier than one week before the collection dates to avoid grass damage or fire hazards. Remove sticks and

other objects from leaf piles. Avoid parking near leaf piles or other vehicles.

After the collection period ends, use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans (without plastic garbage bags) to set leaves out on your refuse and recycling collection day. Use alternative disposal methods such as mulching or composting. Do not dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams, where they can cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding or release nutrients that lead to fish kills. ❄️

Winter Adventures Guarantee Fun for Teens

Teens don't have to be bored this winter! Rockville has planned three awesome mini-adventure days for kids in grades 5-8.

Dave & Busters, Silver Spring. An afternoon filled with arcade games, sports, prizes and more. Food and transportation included. Register with course #8001. Noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26. \$30 R/\$35 NR.

Main Event Afternoon. Includes fun activities at the Main Event in Columbia. Bowling, laser tag, arcade games and more. Food and transportation included. Register with course #8002. Noon-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. \$30 R/\$35 NR.

Ski Liberty Snow Tubing. A unique trip to Boulder Ridge at Ski Liberty for an afternoon of snow tubing. Pack food or bring money to purchase. Transportation included. Register with course #8003. 2-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28. \$40 R/\$45 NR.

Register with the course number at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Transportation departs from Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

Help Us Help You Find Your Way Better in Rockville

The City of Rockville wants members of the public to help make finding their way in the city a little easier.

Signage design firm KMA Design, of Carnegie, Pennsylvania, is developing a comprehensive wayfinding program for the city, focusing on Town Square and Rockville parks. To help create a more vibrant and intuitive signage system, the community is being asked to take a 16-question survey. The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJ9RWQ9.

The answers provided will help guide the project and ensure the finished product reflects the city and community's perspective.

For more information about the survey and wayfinding project, contact Faramarz Mokhtari by email at fmokhtari@rockvillemd.gov.

Financial Assistance Available From the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund

A limited amount of scholarships for recreation program fees are available to Rockville residents aged 18 and younger.

Participants must pay \$15 toward each program fee, unless otherwise specified. The fund covers the balance of the fees, up to \$100 maximum per person, per session (fall, winter, spring, summer); \$150 maximum per youth for the camp session; \$1,000 maximum per family, per year, as funds permit.

Any remaining balance must be paid by the participant. Financial assistance must be applied for in-person at the time of registration.

Limited financial assistance is available for Rockville residents, ages 19 and older, based on income.

Call 240-314-8620 for an appointment. For more information, see page 54 of the winter 2018-19 "Life in Rockville" recreation activity guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/life or see the ad on page 6.

2018 Holiday Drive Continues in December With Annual Gift Drive

The Rockville Holiday Drive is in full swing, and your community needs your help!

In November, the Holiday Drive distributed 480 Thanksgiving meal boxes and hosted a catered meal for 103 seniors. Over 770 Rockville families and senior households in need have been referred for assistance during the December holidays, including more than 1,300 children.

In December, the Holiday Drive distributes new toys for kids, Target gift cards for teens and grocery store gift cards for seniors, and matches select families with donors for individualized sponsorship. The drive expanded last year to give a new book to every child, from infants to teenagers,

and this initiative will continue this year.

You can get involved by:

- Purchasing new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. Especially needed are toys for kids, aged 9-11 (science and craft kits, sports supplies, etc.).
- Contributing \$20 Target gift cards for teens or \$20 Giant gift cards for seniors.
- Donating by check, made out to "Rockville Holiday Drive Fund," or online at www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive.

Donations are accepted at City Hall (111 Maryland Ave.) and at Rockville community centers. The donation deadline is Thursday, Dec. 13. ❄️



THANK GOODNESS FOR GOOD NEIGHBORS ... Rockville will honor four community members this month for unselfishly giving back to their communities. The Mayor and Council, during their Monday, Dec. 3 meeting, will honor Danilo Bengero, Paul Fitzpatrick, Marge Reiman and Ellen Steinwith with Good Neighbor Awards for improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods through their good deeds and community service. To view the presentation, tune in at 7 p.m. on county cable channel 11, or find it live streaming or on demand at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.



Winter is coming! And snow!

Get an **Alert Rockville** account at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Be even more in-the-know when it snows, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather.



Mansion Closed; Alternative Access Available From Avery Road ...

Glenview Mansion is expected to be closed through March to allow for construction of a new Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible parking lot.

While access to the mansion will be closed during construction, visitors can access the tennis courts, Croydon Creek Nature Center and Recreation Services building via Avery Road (off of Baltimore Road). Depending on weather and other factors, the mansion is expected to reopen in April.

Get Fit at the Swim and Fitness Center Without Getting Wet

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a great place to swim and stay in shape year-round, but you don't have to dive in a pool for your workout!

The center has several land-based classes, including Zumba, Teen Fit and Yoga. For adults, the center offers Pilates, circuit training, cardio kick-boxing, Zumba, Bootcamp and yoga. Whatever your experience level, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center has a class that can help you be fitter and healthier.

If you're not into fitness classes, the facility also has a fitness room with ellipticals, treadmills, rowing machines, step climbers and a variety of strength training equipment.

To see fitness classes at the swim center, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration and select "Rockville Swim and Fitness Center" under location and "Fitness" as the category.

Winter registration is now open. Find Rockville Swim and Fitness Center pool schedules, seasonal hours, personal training opportunities and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

Looking for Employment this Summer?

Become Certified to be a Lifeguard or Swim Instructor

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will once again hold American Red Cross lifeguard training and recertification courses, as well as a water safety instructor course.

Earning a lifeguard training certification or becoming a water safety instructor is a great way to prepare for a summer job and learn important life-saving or teaching skills.

Lifeguard training students must be 15 years old by the last day of the course and pass a pre-screening test on the first day of the session. This involves swimming 300 yards continuously, with rhythmic breathing and using front crawl or breast stroke; retrieving a 10-pound brick within one minute, 40 seconds; and treading water using legs only for two minutes.

Water safety instructor students must be 16 years old by the last day of the course. For the pre-screen test on the first day of the session, candidates must swim 25 yards each for front crawl, back crawl, breaststroke, elementary backstroke and sidestroke, and 15 yards of butterfly. They must also be able to maintain their positions on their backs for one minute in deep water (floating or sculling) and tread water for one minute.

A detailed course schedule/syllabus will be provided on the first day of class. To become certified, students must successfully complete the pre-screen test, attend and actively participate in all course sessions, successfully complete class activities and pass a final written exam. Proof of age is required.

Times and dates for the sessions vary. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter and select "classes & lessons" to view the complete course flier. Register at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Space is limited for the sessions.

Classes will be held at the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane.

Lobby and Locker Room Renovations Planned for Swim and Fitness Center

Plans to modernize and expand the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center's locker room and lobby are set to be underway soon.

An invitation soliciting potential contractors to bid on the project was posted on the City of Rockville's website in October. The deadline for those bids to be received is Friday, Dec. 14.

Construction is tentatively expected to begin in late winter 2019 and is projected to last about 12 months.

Key elements of the project include a complete renovation and expansion of the locker room and lobby; modernizing infrastructure and amenities; improving Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; and reconfiguring the lobby.

An open house in June 2017 allowed attendees to see a presentation of the conceptual design, review

highlights of facility areas, talk to city staff and the design team, and provide feedback.

To sign up for emailed updates on the project's progress, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter/alerts. Renovations updates will also be available at www.rockvillemd.gov/rsfc renovations. The bid documents and architectural plans are available online at www.rockvillemd.gov/bids.aspx

Questions about the project can be directed to the Swim and Fitness Center's management team at swimcenter@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8750.

Rockville Swim and Fitness Center is a full-service aquatics, fitness and recreation facility located at 355 Martins Lane. The facility features two indoor and three outdoor pools, along with a whirlpool and fitness and exercise room. ✚

Rockville's Summer Programs Keep Kids' Minds and Bodies Thriving Through the Season

It's never too early to start thinking about what to do with your kids over a summer break — and Rockville's summer programs are open to everyone, not just city residents!

- **Summer Blast**, Rockville's affordable, flexible all-day camp returns to four locations with swimming, field trips, arts, crafts, games and special events. Participants can register by the week or for the whole summer. Summer Blast provides full-day care, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. June 17-Aug. 23. Camp opportunities include: Tiny Chefs Cooking, Mad Science, Lego Invention, Robotics, Hip Hop, Dramatic Kids, Abrakadoodle and Way Off Broadway. Camps are for kids aged 3-16.
- The summer will also be packed with things to do for kids aged 6-12 who take part in Rockville's

Summer Playgrounds program. Various locations are set up at schools and parks in city neighborhoods, where children can meet new friends, and take part in sports and games, crafts and fun water activities.

Find out more about the city's summer program for kids and teens in the "Summer Camps Guide 2019," which will be available online and in print Jan. 17 at city facilities and Rockville libraries. Registration begins Jan. 22. Register early to take advantage of a convenient plan that allows payment for summer programs in four installments.

For a summer season preview, drop by the city's booth at the 2019 Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27, at the Hilton Hotel Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike. ✚

Time to Celebrate the Holidays at the F. Scott Theater

A Rockville tradition returns, learn how the city has inspired an author, get an opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, and celebrate the holiday with music. Here's what's taking place in December at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre!

Rockville Civic Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 1 and 8; 2 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 2 and 9.

Join Clara on her magical journey in what has become a Rockville holiday tradition. Tickets: adults, \$17; seniors 60 and older and children 12 and younger, \$13.

Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series presents "Fiction Imbued by Place: Rockville Stories," presented by Ellen Prentiss Campbell. 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall.

Campbell's National Book Award-nominated collection, "Contents Under Pressure" has several stories inspired by Rockville. Free.

Holiday Festival at

the Civic Center. 1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre and Social Hall.

Head to the F. Scott for an afternoon of holiday fun! Enjoy holiday decorations, arts and crafts, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, and a variety of musical performances. Open and free to the public.

Rockville Concert Band presents "Winter Celebration." A concert that is everything we love about the holiday season, led by guest conductor Juan Gallastegui. 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. No tickets required; a \$5 donation is suggested.

"Holiday Concert," presented by the Rockville Chorus, under the direction of Bryan Seith. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16. No tickets required; a \$5 donation is suggested.

For tickets or more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, call the box office at 240-314-8690, or email theatre@rockvillemd.gov. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. ✚

Donate to the People-Helping-People



Rockville Recreation Fund

This scholarship fund provides financial assistance to those who would not otherwise be able to participate in our programs and activities. If you would like to contribute, you may send a check, "add up" on your registration form or donate online at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration

Online Donation Course #s

\$25 – #2232
\$50 – #2233
\$75 – #2234
\$100 – #2235
\$250 – #2236

- Click on Log in or Create account
- Enter your desired donation course number above

Donations by check may be made out in any amount to Rockville Recreation Fund

Mail to: Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks
Rockville Youth Recreation Fund Donation
111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850



AVOID CLOGS, FIGHT FOG ... When the holiday feast is finished, don't pour fats, oils and grease (i.e., FOG) down the drain. FOG poured down sinks solidifies when deposited into sewer lines, trapping solids and forming hard deposits that can cause blockages in pipes. Blockages can lead to sewer backups and leaking pipes, which can mean costly damage to city infrastructure and private property.

December CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.

GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.

FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.

CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.

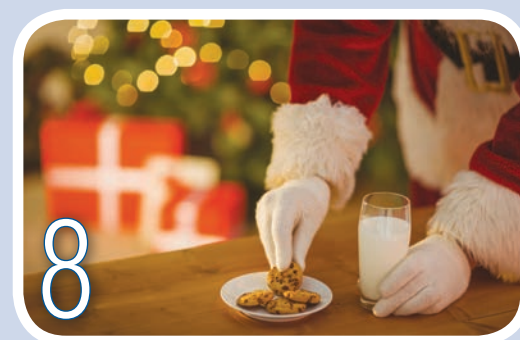
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.

TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.

TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



1,2,8,9 ROCKVILLE CIVIC BALLET PRESENTS "THE NUTCRACKER." See article on page 6. 2 p.m. Dec. 1, 2, 8 and 9; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 and 8. **FSF**

2 NATURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS. Create holiday crafts and ornaments from a variety of natural or recycled objects. Each participant will complete at least three projects. Adult participation required for children under age 8. Register for course #5998. \$10 R/\$14 NR. 2-3:30 p.m. **CC**

3 A LIGHTER LOOK PART I. Take a lighter look at interesting and strange holidays (real and not), including one that was created just for television. Register for course #6204. \$7 MEM/\$9 NM. 10:15-11:15 a.m. **SR**

4,13 DRAWING. Use photographs to draw luminous landscapes, still life and animals. Drawing techniques, such as using graphite shavings, are among methods taught. \$8 material fee due at first class in addition to course fee. Register for course #6081. \$40 MEM/\$50 NM. 10 a.m.-noon. **SR**

4,6 WOODWORKING PORCH PLANTER STAND. Create a holiday wood-working project in this two-day class with Montgomery College instructor Peter McNally. Use the Rockville Senior Center's wood shop equipment to create a gift worth giving. Register for course #6084. \$15 MEM/\$20 NM. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **SR**

4 GLAUCOMA TESTING. Glaucoma is a complex disease in which damage to the optic nerve can cause vision loss and blindness. The Prevention of Blindness Society provides a simple test to help determine if further testing or treatment is important for you. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **SR**

4 TIS THE SEASON SOUP AND SALAD FUNDRAISER. Rockville Seniors, Inc., hosts a fundraiser for the Rockville Senior Center ballroom tables. Program for those 60 years and older. Must register in person or mail checks, payable to Rockville Seniors, Inc., to 1150 Carnation Drive, Rockville, MD 20850. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **SR**

6 CITY HALL TEMPORARILY CLOSED For employee recognition event. See article on page 1. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

6 SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM SCROOGE. Local actor Dwane Starlin embodies the life and spirit of great author and storyteller Charles Dickens, drawing from Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to craft a unique one-man show that tells the oft-repeated story of this literary master. Register for course #5979. \$6 MEM/\$10 NM. 1-2 p.m. **SR**

8 ROCKVILLE SENIOR CENTER HOLIDAY BAZAAR. Sponsored by Rockville Seniors, Inc. Featuring handmade crafts, a book sale, raffle, bake sale, plant sale and more. The gift shop and thrift store will be open and lunch is available for purchase. Call 240-314-8800 for a vendor application. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

8 LITTLE ACORNS: ALL ABOUT ANIMALS. Children age 18-36 months explore nature through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #6061. \$7 R/\$9 NR. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

8 COOKIES WITH SANTA. Visit with Santa, holiday crafts, cookie decorating, letters to Santa and more. Ages 2 and older. \$6 R/\$7 NR. Register for course #8013. 2-4 p.m. **TF**

10 A LIGHTER LOOK PART II. A discussion of why there are "12 Days of Christmas" and the real significance of the song. Register for course #7152. \$7 MEM/\$9 NM. 10:15-11:15 a.m. **SR**

11 GETTING PAID TO TALK WORKSHOP. Have you ever been told you have a great voice? Explore the numerous aspects of voiceover work for television, film, radio, books on tape, documentaries and the internet. Learn how to prepare a demo and record a commercial script under direction from a producer. Learn what the pros look for, how to prepare and where to find work. Registration required. \$25 R/\$30 NR. 6:30-9 p.m. **SR**

12 NATURE TOTS: MAMMALS. Discover the wonders of nature with your child as a naturalist helps you delve into a nature topic through play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. For ages 2-5. Register for course #6070. \$8 R/\$10 NR. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

13 GLENVIEW MANSION AND PEERLESS ROCKVILLE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS "FICTION IMBUE BY PLACE: ROCKVILLE STORIES." Presented by Ellen Prentiss Campbell, who grew up in Rockville and later returned, living in the West End for more than 30 years. Rockville inspired several stories in her collection "Contents Under Pressure," which was nominated for the National Book Award. Her historical novel "The Bowl with Gold Seams" features a renowned resort hotel. Free. 7-9 p.m. **FSF**

15 HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AT THE FITZGERALD. See article on page 6. Free. 1-4 p.m. **FSF**

16 ROCKVILLE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS "WINTER BLISS: BALLET, LATKES, ICE, SNOW AND SANTA." See article on page 6. Free. \$5 suggested donation. 3-5 p.m. **FSF**

16 ROCKVILLE CHORUS PRESENTS "HOLIDAY CONCERT." See article on page 6. Free. Donations appreciated. 7:30-9:30 p.m. **FSF**

25 CITY HALL AND ALL CITY FACILITIES CLOSED. See article on page 1.

26 DAVE & BUSTERS. An afternoon filled with arcade games, sports, prizes and more. Food and transportation included. Register with course #8001. Grades 5-8. Noon-5 p.m. \$30 R/\$35 NR.

27 MAIN EVENT AFTERNOON. Includes fun activities at the Main Event in Columbia. Bowling, laser tag, arcade games and more. Food and transportation included. Grades 5-8. Register with course #8002. Noon-5 p.m. \$30 R/\$35 NR.

28 SKI LIBERTY SNOW TUBING. A unique trip to Boulder Ridge at Ski Liberty for an afternoon of snow tubing. Pack food or bring money to purchase. Transportation included. Grades 5-8. Register with course #8003. 2-8 p.m. \$40 R/\$45 NR.



Honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.
Join the City of Rockville for the

**Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service: Monday, Jan. 21**
Richard Montgomery High School,
250 Richard Montgomery Drive

**Activities from 9:30-11 a.m. and 12:30-2 p.m.,
before and after the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration:**

- Donate Blood •
- Create Cards of Encouragement for Domestic Violence Survivors •
- Serve as a Companion for the Day (Accompany a Senior to the Celebration) •

Activity at 4 p.m. at Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.:

- Prepare Emergency Kits for Homeless Families •

To register and learn more about the celebration, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk.

Additional volunteer opportunities and Student Service Learning hours are available. Contact Janet Kelly at 240-314-8316 or jkelly@rockvillemd.gov.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Sign up at: www.rockvillemd.gov/ registration. Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and register.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Maryland Women's Business Center Celebrates a Successful 2018

The Maryland Women's Business Center, a program of Rockville Economic Development, Inc., helps people in our community start and grow women-owned businesses positioned for long-term growth.

During MWBC's most-recent fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, the nonprofit assisted with:

- 1,920 clients, including:
 - 1,311 training attendees.
 - 609 business counseling recipients.
 - 251 businesses, all of which are majority women-owned, 209 that are minority-owned and 19 that are veteran-owned.
- 62 business starts.
- 208 jobs created or retained.
- A \$3.8 million increase in client sales.
- \$2.7 million in capital infusion to clients.

MWBC conducts training, offers technical assistance and provides resources for women-owned enterprises. They host workshops and meet with Montgomery County clients at the offices shared with REDI at 51 Monroe St., Plaza Level East, Suite 20. Learn more at www.marylandwbc.org.

Tree Recycling Makes the Holidays Greener

The city collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch.

The mulch is available year-round for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station.

Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling and refuse collection days after removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. There is no deadline for curbside collection of trees.

Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year, or taken to the transfer station.

For bulk refuse information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkwaste.

City Hall Closures

continued from pg. 1...

- Center is always closed Mondays and will also be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 26 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 2.
- The Rockville Senior Center, including the Fitness Room, is closed Sundays and will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
 - The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 24 and 31 and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for lap and program schedules.

Parking at city-owned meters will be free on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ❄️



Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdispirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.

Year in Review

continued from pg. 1...

any widening or addition of lanes to Interstate 270 in Rockville as part of the state's I-495 & I-270 Public-Private Partnership Program. To learn more and comment on the project, visit <https://495-270-p3.com/> contact.

The Mayor and Council named the city's newest park, a 6.4-acre property located at 500 W. Montgomery Ave., "**Chestnut Lodge Park.**"



JUNE: Victor Brito was sworn in as **chief of the Rockville City Police Department**. Ricky Barker became the new **director of the Community Planning and Development Services Department**.

Phyllis Marcuccio, who served as Rockville's mayor from 2009-2013, died. "Mayor Marcuccio was a deeply devoted public servant throughout her life and career," Mayor Bridget

Donnell Newton said in a statement on behalf of the Mayor and Council, and city staff.

JULY: Mayor Newton became **president of the Maryland Municipal League**, a statewide organization that represents and advocates on behalf of Maryland's 157 towns and cities.



AUGUST: The city joined towns and cities across the world, Aug. 15, for **City Hall Selfie Day**. Organized by Engaging Local Government Leaders, City Hall Selfie Day is a way for people and organizations to show their love for local government by snapping a selfie each year.

SEPTEMBER: Mayor Newton and City Manager Rob DiSpirito discussed the **state of the City of Rockville** in an event hosted by the Rockville Chamber of Commerce at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. To see video from the event, visit

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville and search "2018 state of the city."



The first day of the 2018-19 school year for Montgomery County Public Schools was the beginning of a new era for public schools in Rockville. **Bayard Rustin Elementary School** opened on the former site of Hungerford Park Elementary, at 332 W. Edmonston Drive.

OCTOBER: For the second consecutive year, Rockville scored perfect marks on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for its commitment to the health, welfare, safety and equality of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community.

The Mayor and Council named **Deputy City Clerk Sara Taylor-Ferrell** to the position of city clerk/director of council operations.

The Buchanan Room at VisArts was filled to capacity Oct. 9, for a **Mayor**

and **Council town hall** to discuss the future of Town Center. "This is an opportunity for all of us," Mayor Newton explained. (See article on page 1.)

Rockville's 57th annual Antique and Classic Car Show rolled into Rockville Civic Center Park, featuring more than 500 vehicles, a car-related flea market and live music.



Maryland brewer-ies, bratwurst and bands made for a rollicking time as Rockville hosted the city's **second annual Rocktoberfest**.

NOVEMBER: Council-member **Julie Palakovich Carr**, newly elected to the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 17, announced her resignation from the Mayor and Council. She will leave her position on the council Jan. 8. See article on page 1.

Read about December's events in this edition of "Rockville Reports." ❄️

Rockville Economic Development, Inc., Welcomes New Director

After an extensive nationwide search, Cynthia Stewart will become the new executive director of Rockville Economic Development, Inc., on Monday, Dec. 3.

"I am thrilled to begin leadership of such an engaged, influential organization," Stewart said in a REDI press release. "I'm eager to use my experience in community and economic development, public-private partnerships, planning and zoning, commercial real estate development, and other strengths in new and inventive ways to attract, grow, and retain businesses with-



in the City of Rockville."

Stewart joins REDI from Coral Springs, Florida, where she was deputy city manager. In that role, she helped to manage a \$198 million annual budget and had direct responsibility and oversight of the

Economic Development Office, Community Development Services, Community Redevelopment Area Operations, and Communications and Marketing, as well as other departments. Coral Springs is a city with 133,000 residents and more than 1,000 employees.

Stewart's experience includes economic development, strategic planning, zoning, code compliance, cultural development, property management and creating public-private partnerships. Prior to Coral Springs, she was the community and economic

developer for Modesto, California, where she oversaw economic and community development, planning and zoning, building, and engineering and road design.

"Her proven experience in creating vibrant downtown spaces, encouraging economic growth, and promoting cultural initiatives will bring fresh energy to continue Rockville's remarkable strides in these areas," said Paul Newman, chair of REDI's board of directors.

To learn more about REDI, visit rockvilleredi.org. ❄️



Get Into It

City Manager: Rob DiSpirito
Deputy City Manager: Jennifer Kimball
Director of Communication: Marylou Berg
Public Information Specialists: Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

Web and Digital Manager: Tatum B. Walker
Graphics and Printing: Sylvia England, Eric Ferrell, Leon Porter, Lori Russler
Rockville II: Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

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BACK IN THE DAY ... A new parkway — 1.75 miles of a divided four-lane roadway — was set to open on Dec. 19, 1991, according to the "Rockville Reports" for December. Linking Seven Locks Road and the Interstate 270 area with Rockville Pike, the parkway was to be marked with a formal dedication attended by "federal, state, county, and city officials and dignitaries."